

REMARKS

The above Amendment and the enclosed revised copy in triplicate of the Appeal Brief are presented in accordance with the Office notification of December 23, 2003 and a telephone communication between Applicants attorney and the Examiner on January 22, 2004.

Claim 51 has been amended to depend from claim 31 so that it is in compliance with the Appendix of the Appeal Brief.

Additionally, the Appeal Brief has been revised to discuss the reasons for separate patentability in support of the statement of the "Grouping of Claims" on page 4. These revisions include arguments as to why the various claims are separately patentable over the prior art because the features are not shown by the prior art. This procedure was adapted in accordance with the best understood requirement of the Examiner, as stated in the telephone conversation of January 22, 2004.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Serial No. 09/915,570
Amendment Dated: January 23, 2004
Reply to Non-Compliance Dated: December 23, 2003

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037076.43755CO).

Respectfully submitted,

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